

Remark

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 29, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43 and 51-56 have been amended. Claims 1-28 have been previously canceled. Therefore, claims 29-56 are now presented for examination.

Claim Objections and Rejections

Claims 29, 38-39, 41-43, 49 and 51-56 were objected to for various informalities.

The Examiner's suggestions have been incorporated in the above amendments.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection*Barber*

The pending claims 29-32 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Barber et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,240,521 ("Barber"). In Barber, two processors share "a common instruction set and address space." "Since the two processors share a common address space, the contents of memory is available equally to both processors. It is only the machine state which must be passed back and forth between the active processor via the shared memory and the sleep mode transitions."

(Col. 3, lines 43 et seq.)

Claim 29 recites "accessing data contained within the computer system memory through a shared database." This is not the same as the contents of memory being available equally to both processors. In Barber, there is no shared database and other memory is not accessed through any shared database.

The Examiner would appear to suggest that Claim 29's shared database reads on Barber's system RAM and that Claim 29's computer system memory reads on Barber's DISK, possibly a hard disk drive. This application of Claim 29 ignores the limitation above of "accessing data contained within the computer system memory through a shared database." Barber does not specifically explain how a hard disk might be accessed, but there is nothing to suggest anything other than that each CPU (having equal access to memory) will access the hard disk directly through the internal bus. The reference does not suggest that a hard disk drive is accessed through the on-board RAM and if this were done, it would be quite unusual.

Accordingly, Claim 29 is believed to be allowable over Barber. Claims 38, 41 and 51 contain similar limitations and are believed to be allowable therefor.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Hollon

The pending claims 51-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hollon, U.S. Patent No. 5,768,164 ("Hollon"). Hollon shows a notebook computer with a second user interface on the back of the display. The second user interface appears to use the same memory, busses, etc as the primary user interface.

In Claim 51, a processor provides access to a computer system through a shared database. The Examiner would appear to be reading the processor and the shared database on the components of the computer system of Figure 8. However, if the processor and shared database are read on the CPU 81 and main memory 82 of Figure 8, that leaves only the display 20 and video controller 83 for the accessed computer system.

The display, however, will typically be shut down or at least not visible, when the second user interface is being used, since the second user interface is on the back of the display. There is then no computer system remaining for the processor to access. Such a reading of Hollon takes the components of Hollon completely out of context. Accordingly, Claim 51 is believed to be allowable over the reference.

With respect to Claim 52, Hollon acknowledges power consumption problems with normal, sleep, and hibernation modes, however, there is no suggestion in Hollon's detailed description of how the second user interface will reduce power consumption except by turning off the display. The system will not operate if the CPU 81 is in a standby, sleep or hibernation mode because it is the only CPU in the system and is used for supporting the second user interface as well.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Barber and Hollon

The pending claims 38-40 42, 44 and 48-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barber in view of Hollon. As mentioned above, neither Barber nor Hollon describe a shared database through which access to a computer system may be provided. Accordingly Claim 38 is believed to be allowable.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection*Barber, Hollon, and Kabelshkov*

The pending claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barber and Hollon, and further in view of Kabelshkov, U.S. Patent No. 6,108,663 (“Kabelshkov”). Kabelshkov was cited as showing a shared database. However, Kabeshkov does not show a shared database as recited in the claims. On the contrary, there is a single data source 34 that is accessed either by the co-processor 40 or both the co-processor and the host processor 30 through a common I/O bus. This does not correspond to a shared database through which access to a computer system may be provided and the similar recitations in the claims. Further there is nothing in any of these three references to suggest modifications to accomplish such a thing.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection*Barber, Hollon, Ditzik, Chen*

The remaining claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barber and/or Hollon in combinations with Ditzik, U.S. Patent No. 5,983,073, (“Ditzik”) and Chen et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,590,197 (“Chen”). Neither Ditzik nor Chen were cited for the shared database, processor and computer system features discussed above. Accordingly, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Dependent Claims

The remaining claims not discussed above are dependent from one or more of the independent claims discussed above and are believed to be allowable therefore as well as for the additional limitations expressly set forth in each claim respectively.

The Examiner writes that all rejections "not argued in entirety or substantively in response filed as said Amendment have been conceded by Applicant." This is absolutely not true. In an effort to reduce the already large burden faced by the examining corps, Applicants have tried to limit each Amendment only to the most essential issues and to make each point as concisely as possible. Drawing such inferences based on an apparent omission in an Amendment is not authorized or sanctioned by any statute or regulation. Such a statute or regulation does not exist specifically because the Deputy Commissioners and the General Counsel's office are aware of what would happen. Instead of being presented with a concise 1 to four-page set of remarks with each Amendment, examiners would be provided with 20 or 30 pages of remarks that resemble responses to discovery requests in patent litigation. This would be a disservice to the examining corps and to inventors.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 16, 2005



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Docket No.: 42390P10227
Application No.: 09/753,326